



Memorial Health Systems Foundation



2013 York County Student Essay Contest Official Rules and Regulations

This document outlines the official rules and regulations, including award information, governing this student essay contest. Please read the entire document carefully. The official entry form is at the end of the packet.

Awards

A total of 28 finalists will receive awards.

- The first-place winner will receive \$2,000
- The second-place winner will receive \$1,000
- The third-place winner will receive \$500
- Twenty-five finalists will each receive \$100

Contest finalists and parents/guardians will be invited to a public awards program on April 7, 2013. The top three prize winners will be announced during the awards ceremony. All finalists are expected to attend the awards ceremony. Entrants will be notified if they are finalists by March 23, 2013.

Eligibility

- Must be an 11th or 12th grade student residing York County, Pennsylvania who is currently attending a public school, private school, charter school or home school.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each contestant must fully complete and attach the student entry form.
- Individuals who reside in the same household as those directly involved in the judging or administration of this contest are not eligible to participate.

Contest Regulations

All essays must comply with the following contest rules before submission:

- No literary form other than an essay will be accepted.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking. Essays must not be in the public domain, must be factually accurate and must not infringe or violate any law or the legal or equitable right of any person or entity, nor contain material that infringes or violates any personal property rights of others or that constitutes defamation, or is otherwise unlawful.
- Contest administrators reserve the right to disqualify any entry for any reason.
- Entry and participation in the 2013 York County Student Essay Contest constitutes an entrant's (and his/her parent and/or guardian's) full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. By participating in this Contest, entrants agree that the contest organizers/sponsors (the County of York, York County Communities That Care and Memorial Health Systems Foundation), their shareholders, agents and representatives; advertising, promotion, and fulfillment agencies; and legal and other advisors are not responsible or liable for, and shall be released and held harmless from: i.) cancellation or disruption of the Contest; ii.) any printing of typographical errors in any materials associated with the Contest; and iii.) any and all losses, damages, rights, claims, and actions of any kind in connection with or resulting from participation in the Contest, acceptance, possession, or use/misuse of any prize, including without limitation, personal injury, death, and property damage, and claims based on publicity rights, defamation, or invasion of privacy.
- Unlawful, unintelligible, illegible, obscene, indecent or incomplete entries will be disqualified. The Contest Organizers/Sponsors reserve the right to scrutinize all entries for these requirements prior to entry in the Contest.
- Any and all rules may be changed at any time by Contest Organizers/Sponsors



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- The odds of winning depend on the total number of entries received.
- Contest Organizers/Sponsors and their agents are not responsible for entries that are late, stolen, garbled/jumbled, corrupted, misdirected, incomplete or illegible.
- All federal, state and local taxes associated with contest winnings are the sole responsibility of the winners.
- The Organizers/Sponsors are not responsible for any selection procedures, notifications or other communications that are late, lost, stolen, misdirected, non-deliverable or illegible due to any reason whatsoever. All decisions of the judges with regard to this Contest are final and binding in all respects.
- Before receiving awards, certain winners will be required to furnish required documentation and/or information for tax purposes. Winners shall provide the necessary information for the full completion of form/forms before receiving awards. Failure to provide such information within 30 days of the awards ceremony will result in forfeiture of contest award.

Submission:

Send two (2) unfolded copies of the essay in an 8 ½ X 11" envelope to:

Essay Contest
York County Commissioners' Office
County of York, Pennsylvania,
28 E. Market St.
York, Pa. 17401

- Essays must be typed, double-spaced and in English.
- A fully completed **Student Entry Form** must be stapled to the front of each essay submission.
- **The essay is limited to 500-700 words.** The Student Entry Form is not included in the word count.
- **The title of the essay, but NOT the author's name or other information, MUST appear on the top of the first page of essay text.**
- No reference will be made in the body of the essay that identifies the student's name, the names of other minors, school, school district or parent/guardian.
- Essays must be received or postmarked on or before the due date, February 15, 2013
- Essays will not be returned to the author. Once submitted, they become property of the County of York. By submitting an essay, contestants agree to allow the County to reprint all or parts of the essay in any format at the County's discretion. Appropriate citations will be given to the writers.
- Contestants and their parent/guardian also agree to allow the publication and dissemination of the name, grade and school of the essay author at the County's discretion. Such permission is limited to use in context with the essay contest (including, but not limited to, publicly announcing finalists and winners).

Essay scoring

Communities That Care, County of York staff and others will judge the essays using five criteria.

- **Understanding the topic:** To what extent does the writer demonstrate a clear understanding of the question and respond with details about his/her experience?
- **Original thinking related to the topic:** To what extent is the original thinking relevant to the subject?
- **Effectiveness in presenting a point of view:** To what extent does the writer effectively present his/her point of view?
- **Literary style, grammar and spelling:** To what extent does the writer use proper literary style, grammar and spelling?
- **Tie Breaker:** Is the essay unique and creative?



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Student Entry Form

Please print.

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms. Name _____ Grade _____

School _____

School address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

School phone number _____

Home address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone number _____

☐ I have read and agree to all Official Student Essay Contest Rules and Regulations

Student/Entrant Signature _____

☐ I have read and agree to all Official Student Essay Contest Rules and Regulations

Entrant Parent/Guardian Signature _____

This entry form must accompany your essay. By submitting this form and participating in the contest, you certify that you have read and agreed to the contest rules and regulations. All entries must be postmarked on or before contest due date of February 15, 2013.

Essay Title: _____ Word Count: _____

Essay Topic:

Teens today face many struggles on the road to adulthood. In your view, what are the most serious challenges facing York County teens? What more could parents, teachers, community leaders and organizations do to better help youth on the road to success? Explain your answers.